



U.S. Department of Justice

Michael J. Sullivan
United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts

Main Reception: (617) 748-3100

John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse
Suite 9200
1 Courthouse Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

November 30, 2006

David P. Hoose
1145 Main Street, Suite 304
Springfield, MA 01103

Re: United States v. Elizabeth Cortes
Criminal No. 05-30035-MAP

Dear Attorney Hoose:

This letter sets forth the Agreement between the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts ("the U.S. Attorney") and your client, Elizabeth Cortes ("Defendant"), in the above-captioned case. The Agreement is as follows:

1. Change of Plea

At the earliest practicable date but in no event later than December 11, 2006, Defendant shall plead guilty to the following count of the above-captioned Indictment: Count Three. Defendant expressly and unequivocally admits that she in fact knowingly, intentionally and willfully committed the crime charged in Count Three of the Indictment, and is in fact guilty of that offense. The U.S. Attorney agrees to dismiss the Information filed pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 851 at the sentencing.

2. Penalties

Defendant faces the following minimum mandatory and maximum penalties: five year minimum mandatory and 40 year maximum prison sentence; a term of supervised release of at least 4 years to a maximum of life; a fine of up to \$2,000,000 and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

3. Sentencing Guidelines

The parties agree to jointly take the following positions at sentencing with regard to offense

conduct, adjustments and criminal history under the United States Sentencing guidelines:

Based upon 5.7 grams of cocaine base the base offense level is 26. There will be a two level enhancement pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1 and a three level reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 for a final offense level of 25. The parties believe that the defendant will be in Criminal History Category IV, which results in a sentencing range of 84 months to 105 months.

The U.S. Attorney's agreement that the disposition set forth below is appropriate in this case is based, in part, on Defendant's prompt acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense of conviction in this case.

The U.S. Attorney specifically may, at his sole option, be released from his commitments under this Agreement, including, but not limited to, his agreement that paragraph 4 constitutes the appropriate disposition of this case, if at any time between her execution of this Agreement and sentencing, Defendant:

- (a) Fails to admit a complete factual basis for the plea;
- (b) Fails to truthfully admit her conduct in the offenses of conviction;
- (c) Falsely denies, or frivolously contests, relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3;
- (d) Fails to provide truthful information about her financial status;
- (e) Gives false or misleading testimony in any proceeding relating to the criminal conduct charged in this case and any relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3;
- (f) Engages in acts which form a basis for finding that Defendant has obstructed or impeded the administration of justice under U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1;
- (g) Intentionally fails to appear in Court or violates any condition of release;
- (h) Commits a crime; and/or
- (I) Transfers any asset protected under any provision of this Agreement.

Defendant expressly understands that she may not withdraw her plea of guilty, unless the Court rejects this Agreement under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(5).

4. Agreed Disposition

The U.S. Attorney and Defendant agree pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C) that the following is the appropriate disposition of this case:

- (a) incarceration for 96 months;
- (b) a \$100 special assessment; and
- (c) supervised release for 5 years.

The U.S. Attorney and Defendant agree that there is no basis for a departure or deviation under the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) from the sentencing range established by the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

5. Payment of Mandatory Special Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay the mandatory special assessment to the Clerk of the Court on or before the date of sentencing, unless Defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the Court that Defendant is financially unable to do so.

6. Waiver of Rights to Appeal and to Bring Collateral Challenge

Defendant is aware that she has the right to challenge her sentence and guilty plea on direct appeal. Defendant is also aware that she may, in some circumstances, be able to argue that her plea should be set aside, or her sentence set aside or reduced, in a collateral challenge such as pursuant to a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

In consideration of the concessions made by the U.S. Attorney in this Agreement, Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives her right to appeal or collaterally challenge:

- (1) Defendant's guilty plea and any other aspect of Defendant's conviction, including, but not limited to, any rulings on pretrial suppression motions or any other pretrial dispositions of motions and issues; and
- (2) The imposition by the District Court of the sentence agreed to by the parties, as set out in paragraph 4 and, even if the Court rejects one or more positions advocated by the parties with regard to the application of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines or application of minimum mandatory sentences.

In consideration of the concessions made by the U.S. Attorney in this Agreement, Defendant agrees not to seek to be sentenced or resentenced with the benefit of any successful collateral challenge of any counseled criminal conviction that exists as of the date of this Agreement.

Defendant's waiver of rights to appeal and to bring collateral challenges shall not apply to appeals or challenges based on new legal principles in First Circuit or Supreme Court cases decided

after the date of this Agreement which are held by the First Circuit or Supreme Court to have retroactive effect.

This Agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the United States as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), and the U.S. Attorney therefore retains his appeal rights.

7. Probation Department Not Bound By Agreement

The sentencing disposition agreed upon by the parties and their respective calculations under the Sentencing Guidelines are not binding upon the United States Probation Office. Defendant's plea will be tendered pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(C). Defendant cannot withdraw her plea of guilty unless the sentencing judge rejects this Agreement. If the sentencing judge rejects this Agreement, this Agreement shall be null and void at the option of either the United States or Defendant. In this regard, Defendant hereby waives any defense to any charges which she might otherwise have under any statute of limitations or the Speedy Trial Act.

8. Civil Liability

By entering into this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney does not compromise any civil liability, including but not limited to any tax liability, which Defendant may have incurred or may incur as a result of her conduct and her plea of guilty to the charges specified in paragraph one of this Agreement.

9. Withdrawal of Plea By Defendant

Should Defendant move to withdraw her guilty plea at any time, this Agreement shall be null and void at the option of the U.S. Attorney.

10. Breach of Agreement

If the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has failed to comply with any provision of this Agreement, has violated any condition of her pretrial release, or has committed any crime following her execution of this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney may, at his sole option, be released from his commitments under this Agreement in their entirety by notifying Defendant, through counsel or otherwise, in writing. The U.S. Attorney may also pursue all remedies available to him under the law, irrespective of whether he elects to be released from his commitments under this Agreement. Further, the U.S. Attorney may pursue any and all charges which have been, or are to be, dismissed pursuant to this Agreement. Defendant recognizes that no such breach by her of an obligation under this Agreement shall give rise to grounds for withdrawal of her guilty plea. Defendant understands that, should she breach any provision of this agreement, the U.S. Attorney will have the right to use against Defendant before any grand jury, at any trial or hearing, or for sentencing purposes, any statements which may be made by her, and any information, materials, documents or objects which may be provided by her to the government subsequent to this Agreement, without any limitation. In this regard, Defendant hereby waives any defense to any

charges which she might otherwise have under any statute of limitations or the Speedy Trial Act.

11. Who Is Bound By Agreement

This Agreement is limited to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, and cannot and does not bind the Attorney General of the United States or any other federal, state or local prosecutive authorities.

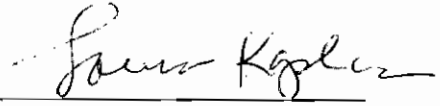
12. Complete Agreement

This letter contains the complete and only agreement between the parties relating to the disposition of this case. No promises, representations or agreements have been made other than those set forth in this letter. This Agreement supersedes prior understandings, if any, of the parties, whether written or oral. This Agreement can be modified or supplemented only in a written memorandum signed by the parties or on the record in court.

If this letter accurately reflects the Agreement between the U.S. Attorney and Defendant, please have Defendant sign the Acknowledgment of Agreement below. Please also sign below as Witness. Return the original of this letter to Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd E. Newhouse.

Very truly yours,

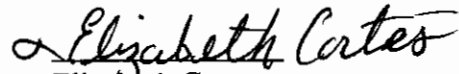
MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
United States Attorney

By: 

LAURA J. KAPLAN, Chief
Violent & Organized Crime Section

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PLEA AGREEMENT

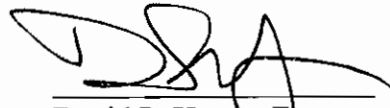
I have read this letter in its entirety and discussed it with my attorney. I hereby acknowledge that it fully sets forth my agreement with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. I further state that no additional promises or representations have been made to me by any official of the United States in connection with this matter. I understand the crimes to which I have agreed to plead guilty, the maximum penalties for those offenses and Sentencing Guideline penalties potentially applicable to them. I am satisfied with the legal representation provided to me by my attorney. We have had sufficient time to meet and discuss my case. We have discussed the charges against me, possible defenses I might have, the terms of this Plea Agreement and whether I should go to trial. I am entering into this Agreement freely, voluntarily, and knowingly because I am guilty of the offenses to which I am pleading guilty and I believe this Agreement is in my best interest.



Elizabeth Cortes
Defendant

Date: 12-20-06

I certify that Elizabeth Cortes has read this Agreement and that we have discussed its meaning. I believe she understands the Agreement and is entering into the Agreement freely, voluntarily and knowingly.



David P. Hoose, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant

Date: 12-20-06